

STATE OF MARYLAND
DHMH PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Planning a Healthier Future for All Marylanders

DHMH seeks public input on measures for
Maryland's State Health Improvement Plan 2011-2014

Baltimore, MD (April 13, 2011) - The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) is seeking comments from the public on key statewide health measures outlined in the Maryland State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) 2011-2014. This project aims to improve the health of Marylanders and their communities. There is a special emphasis on promoting health equity.

"Our mission is to make Maryland healthier for all," said DHMH Secretary Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D. "Public input and engagement will be critical for success."

The SHIP will be unique to Maryland; the product of several population health planning efforts at the federal, state and local level in collaboration with private partners and input from Marylanders.

Anyone who wishes can review the measures at Maryland State Health Improvement Plan (<http://dhmh.maryland.gov/ship/>) and provide their feedback through a specially designed survey included on the site.

"Every Marylander has a stake in this process," said Frances Phillips, DHMH Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services. "By focusing on health disparities and other areas where improvement offers significant progress, we can do a better job of helping Maryland families enjoy longer, healthier lives."

Improving the health of all Marylanders through planning requires broad stakeholder engagement through multiple steps. Accordingly, Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) will:

1. Seek public comment on draft objectives and general framework for the SHIP (April 13, 2011 – May 12, 2011)
2. Release the SHIP with an overview of cross-cutting strategies to achieve objectives (July 2011)
3. Support local and regional coalitions formed to develop local implementation plans aimed at achieving SHIP objectives of local and regional priority (July - December 2011)

4. Build and support broad engagement to implement strategies and monitor progress toward SHIP objectives (2012 on)

For more information on SHIP, visit <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/ship/>

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